

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL DIVISION

Mike McGrath
Attorney General

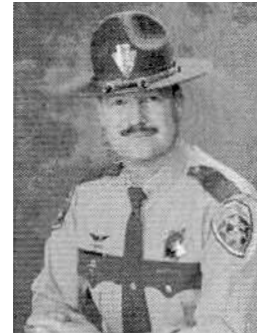


2550 Prospect
PO Box 201419
Helena, MT 59620-1419

Honorable Mike McGrath
Attorney General
Justice Building
215 N. Sanders
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: 2003 Annual Report

Dear Attorney General McGrath:



I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Montana Highway Patrol for the calendar year 2003. This report is in compliance with Montana Statute and contains a vast amount of information concerning traffic crashes throughout the State of Montana. A great deal of effort goes into the compilation of this data and I believe it serves a critical function in educating and informing our citizens. The material contained within relates directly to highway traffic safety in Montana.

Montana saw a slight reduction in the traffic death toll this past year. Seven fewer people died on our roads last year as compared to 2002. Still, 262 individuals tragically lost their lives in crashes in 2003. Of that number, 171 were not using restraint systems. Statistics and history demonstrate a 50 percent improvement in occupant survival rates if individuals are properly restrained. It is clear that lives could be saved if all motorists would take the time to "buckle up."

During the past year, the Patrol was impacted by having seven officers deployed with our military forces overseas. The loss of these officers for the year did affect our ability to provide traffic services. The men and women of the Montana Highway Patrol remain dedicated to the mission of providing a safe highway transport system for all users. We will diligently work towards meeting the requirements set before us to improve public safety in Montana. The Montana Highway Patrol, as all Montanans, recognizes and appreciates your leadership and commitment in making Montana a better place for all of us to live and drive.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in ink, appearing to read "Randall S. Yaeger".

Colonel Randall S. Yaeger
Chief Administrator

